

**For the First Time:**

# The Story of

## Of April, 1961

Out of a controversy stirred by Robert Kennedy comes new information about the Bay of Pigs invasion—and why it failed.

Lack of "U. S. air cover" turns out to be only a part of the story that emerges.

One key decision is found to have played a crucial role in the outcome of the invasion.

Now can be told the real story of what went wrong in the attempted invasion of Fidel Castro's Cuba at the Bay of Pigs on April 17, 1961.

That story is one of a key decision that was made personally by John F. Kennedy, President of the United States.

The story emerges as a result of statements made by Robert Kennedy, Attorney General and the President's brother, in two interviews published on Jan. 21, 1963. One interview was in "U.S. News & World Report." The other was in the Miami, Fla., "Herald" and other newspapers published by Knight Newspapers, Inc.

Then, on January 24, the President, at a news conference, gave his official explanation of the invasion's failure.

In the meantime, what the Attorney General said had stirred wide controversy. In this controversy, lips that had been sealed for nearly two years were opened. People in Washington who can talk with authority about the Bay of Pigs began to speak out. So, too, did Cuban refugees in Miami who played roles of command or active participation in the invasion. New information began coming to light.

What this new information makes clear is that it was President Kennedy himself who made the decision that determined the fate of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

What follows is this newly revealed story about one of the most humiliating reverses in American history.

The Bay of Pigs invasion was an American-sponsored venture. The invasion forces, though Cuban, had been trained by American military men. They were supplied with Ameri-

The person who made that key decision was the President, John F. Kennedy.

What the President decided, and how it affected the course of the invasion is told here. The facts come from authoritative sources in Washington. You get also from Miami, Fla., the Cuban Freedom Fighters' side of the invasion story.

can weapons. The invasion planning—even the choice of the invasion site—was done by Americans.

Two American aircraft carriers stood nearby when the invasion occurred. So did a number of American destroyers. So, likewise, did a battalion of U. S. marines.

Those American forces, near the scene of an American-sponsored invasion, were forbidden to help save the venture. It was President John F. Kennedy who forbade the use of American military forces.

Another action by President Kennedy affected the operations of the Cuban invaders' own air force. The President forbade the Cuban fliers to make an aerial strike against Fidel Castro's air force that had been scheduled to coincide with the invasion.

In the opinion of many experts who were closely involved, the failure of the invasion can be traced directly to the lack of that air strike. Castro's planes, without the air strike, were free to wreak havoc among the invading forces.

**Breaking a silence.** For 21 months, a cloak of official secrecy has been thrown around this whole Bay of Pigs operation.

A committee, headed by Robert Kennedy, was set up by the President to investigate the Bay of Pigs. Other members were: Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, then a presidential adviser and now chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Allen Dulles, then Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, since re-

(continued on next page)